

rial having elasticity and ductility. The material having elasticity and ductility may comprise rubber, polymer, paper, natural fiber and synthetic fiber. In the tactile and visual display device, the transistor connecting each of the corresponding pixels is driven to form rotating current, so that a magnetic force is generated and elasticity and viscosity are represented.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0016] The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art by describing in detail exemplary embodiments thereof with reference to the attached drawings in which:

[0017] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a tactile and visual display device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[0018] FIG. 2a illustrates the configuration of a tactile sensation generator constituting a tactile and visual display device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 2b illustrates the circuit configuration of the corresponding pixel illustrated in FIG. 2a according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

[0019] FIG. 3 illustrates a sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention; and

[0020] FIG. 4 illustrates a sensor according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EMBODIMENTS

[0021] The present invention will now be described more fully hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which exemplary embodiments of the invention are shown. This invention may, however, be embodied in different forms and should not be construed as limited to the exemplary embodiments set forth herein.

[0022] FIG. 1 is a perspective view illustrating the configuration of a tactile and visual display device according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 2a illustrates a tactile sensation generator constituting the tactile and visual display device according to the present invention, and FIG. 2b illustrates the circuit configuration of a corresponding pixel illustrated in FIG. 2a.

[0023] Referring to FIGS. 1, 2a and 2b, a tactile and visual display device 1 according to the present invention includes a display unit 100 formed on a substrate, a tactile sensation generator 200 mounted over the display unit 100 and generating an electrostatic force or a magnetostatic force according to a signal provided by the display unit 100, and a sensor 300 sensing the electrostatic force or the magnetostatic force provided by the tactile sensation generator 200 to perceive tactile information. That is, the tactile sensation generator 200 is mounted over the display unit 100 and transmits light emitted from a display to provide a user with visual information, and transmits the electrostatic force or the magnetostatic force of the surface to the sensor 300, so that a user can perceive tactile information. The sensor 300 is mounted over a user's finger and changes the tactile information generated from the tactile sensation generator 200 to a physical displacement to perceive the information by the user's touch.

[0024] Details of the components will be described below. First, the display unit 100 includes a plurality of scan lines 101, a plurality of data lines 102 and a plurality of pixels 103. The tactile sensation generator 200 includes a plurality of

corresponding pixels 201 formed to correspond to the pixels 103, and a plurality of field effect transistors (Tr_1 to Tr_{20}) 220 electrically connecting the adjacent corresponding pixels 201 to each other (Refer to FIG. 2a). The tactile sensation generator 200 connects the corresponding pixels 201 to the field effect transistors 220 and applies a gate voltage to certain field effect transistors in order to generate current of a shape desired by a user, so that an electric field or a magnetic field is generated. The field effect transistors 220 are separately formed from transistors constituting the corresponding pixels 201. The corresponding pixels 201 of the tactile sensation generator 200 may be formed to be the same size as the pixels 103 of the display unit 100. This is so that light generated from the display unit 100 can be transmitted without scattering.

[0025] The corresponding pixels 201 of the tactile sensation generator 200 are connected to each other using an active device such as a drive circuit used in an active-matrix device such as a liquid crystal display (LCD). More specifically, referring to FIG. 2, each corresponding pixel 201 of the tactile sensation generator 200 is mounted over the display unit 100 and includes a transparent electrode 211 transmitting light emitted from the pixel 103, a plurality of address lines 212 and a plurality of scan lines 213 electrically connected to the transparent electrode 211, transistors 214 and 215 transmitting a signal applied to the address line according to a scan signal applied to the scan line 213, a capacitor 217 storing a voltage corresponding to the transmitted signal, and a transistor 216 providing a current corresponding to the voltage stored in the capacitor 217 to the transparent electrode 211. When the drive circuit driving the corresponding pixels 201 of the tactile sensation generator 200 has the above configuration, an active-driving circuit included in each of the corresponding pixels 201 can provide charge to each corresponding pixel 201, so that a force may be generated by a phase difference with the sensor 300.

[0026] FIG. 3 illustrates an enlarged pad portion 310 of a sensor according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 4 illustrates a sensor according to another exemplary embodiment of the present invention.

[0027] Referring to FIGS. 3 and 4, the sensor 300 includes a pad portion 310 including a plurality of sensing pixels 311 corresponding to the corresponding pixels 201 of the tactile sensation generator 200, and a pad connector 320 having one end electrically connected to the pad portion 310 and the other end electrically connected to the tactile sensation generator 200. Referring to FIG. 3, the pad portion 310 includes an insulated connecting line 312 connecting the plurality of sensing pixels 311 and the adjacent sensing pixels 311. The insulated connecting line 312 is a component through which current cannot flow, is connected between the sensing pixels 311, includes cotton, silk, rubber, synthetic fiber, etc., and may have various connection types rather than a line connection type. Particularly, the insulated connecting line 312 enables the sensing pixels 311 to freely move while their relative positions are maintained (within 2 mm—humans are insensitive to movement of 1 mm or less).

[0028] Each of the sensing pixels 311 of the pad portion 310 is formed of a conductive material to sense an electrical force, or of a magnetic material (including a permanent magnet) to sense a magnetic force. The reason why the sensing pixels 311 are connected to each other by the insulated connecting lines 312 is to insulate the adjacent sensing pixels 311 from each other. Meanwhile, referring to FIG. 4, a plurality of